expression vector(s) containing at least one cDNA encoding a human neurogenic transcription factor, or homologous non-human counterpart, or active fragment(s) thereof, from the group consisting of NeuroD1, NeuroD2, ASH1, Zic1, Zic3, and MyT1, such that at least one of the neurogenic transcription factor(s) is expressed in said cell;

(c) growing the transfected cell in the presence of at least one antisense oligonucleotide comprising a segment of a human MSX1 gene and/or human HES1 gene, or homologous non-human counterpart of either of these, [thereby suppressing] in an amount sufficient to suppress the expression of functional MSX1 gene product and/or HES1 gene product [at least one negative regulator of neuronal differentiation]; and, optionally,

(d) growing said epidermal cell with a retinoid and at least one neurotrophin selected from the group consisting of BDNF, CNTF, PDGF, NGF, NT-3, NT-4, sonic hedgehog, and active fragments of any of these, or a cytokine comprising IL-6, whereby the cell is transdifferentiated into a cell having one or more morphological, physiological and/or immunological feature(s) of a neural progenitor, neuronal, or glial cell.

2. (Amended)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the eukaryotic expression vector(s) of the transfection step comprise a CMV promoter sequence operatively linked to a DNA(s) encoding the neurogenic transcription factor selected from the group consisting of NeuroD1, NeuroD2, ASH1, Zic1, Zic3, and MyT1, and wherein the DNA encoding the neurogenic transcription factor is of human origin or is a homologous non-human counterpart, or is an active fragment of a gene encoding any of these.

11. (Amended)   A kit for converting epidermal basal cells [to cells] into cells having one or more morphological, physiological and/or immunological feature(s) of a neural progenitor, neuronal, or glial cell, said kit comprising:

(A) one or more eukaryotic expression vector(s) containing cDNA encoding a neurogenic transcription factor, or fragment thereof, from the group consisting of NeuroD1,